

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04086 090910Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 090858Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 525

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

IAEA VIENNA 72

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4086

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, TECH, KS, MNUC

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO ROKG ON NUCLEAR EXPORTS.

REF: A. STATE 133123 B. SEOUL 3374

1. EMBASSY PROCEEDING IMMEDIATELY TO SEEK ROKG CONFIRMATION OF OUR INTERPRETATION ARTICLE 8 C OF US-KOREA AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION CIVIL USES ATOMIC ENERGY. WE ARE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS, HOWEVER, REGARDING ROKG REACTION. ROKG MOST LIKELY QUESTION US MOTIVES IN UTILIZING ISSUE OF LOSS OF LICENSE IN MAILS BETWEEN NRC AND WESTINGHOUSE TO RAISE ISSUES OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE. NEVERTHELESS WE FULL CONCUR IN DESIRABILITY OF COMING TO GRIPS WITH REPROCESSING ISSUE.

2. KEY PERSONALITY INVOLVED IN ATOMIC ENERGY ISSUE, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CH'OE HYONG-SOP, PRESENTLY IN US. HE IS ATTENDING WORLD CONGRESS ON EDUCATING ENGINEERS FOR WORLD DEVELOPMENT AT ESTES PARK, COLORADO, JUNE 9-12. ROKG REPLY LIKELY BE DELAYED UNTIL HIS RETURN. I WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE SUGGEST HE COME TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS PROBLEM IN REF A FOLLOWING ESTES PARK MEETING.

3. IN FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR, MINISTER CH'OE
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RECOUNTED HIS DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING CLEAR GUIDANCE ON

US POLICY WITH RESPECT REPROCESSING. HE STATES THAT HE STARTED DISCUSSIONS WITH AEC AS EARLY AS 1971 AND FOLLOWED THESE UP WITH DISCUSSIONS WITH IAEA. AFTER RECEIVING NO CLEAR CUT GUIDANCE ON US POLICY OR ASSURANCES OF REPROCESSING AND AFTER BEING INFORMED ROKG RESPONSIBLE FOR REPROCESSING, CH'OE STATES HE ONLY THEN MOVED TO DISCUSSIONS WITH FRENCH ON REPROCESSING PLANT. CH'OE INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR HE IS NOT CONVINCED PURCHASE OF FRENCH REPROCESSING PLANT IS RIGHT COURSE OF ACTION FOR ROKG AND WOULD PREFER WORKING WITH USG. AMBASSADOR URGHVIROKG HOLD OFF FINAL DECISION ON FRENCH PLANT. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES BELIEVE WE CAN EXERCISE CONSTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE OVER ROK DECISIONS ON REPROCESSING, PROVIDED WE CAN BE MORE FORTHCOMING IN OFFERING PROSPECTS FOR REPROCESSING.

4. RECOMMENDATION: I RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED SOONEST TO INVITE CH'OE TO VISIT WASHINGTON FOLLOWING ESTES PARK CONFERENCE.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS, PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY, NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL04086
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750200-0443
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750668/aaaacjyg.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 STATE 133123, 75 SEOUL 3374
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPROACH TO ROKG ON NUCLEAR EXPORTS.
TAGS: TGEN, TECH, MNUC, OVIP, KS, US, (CH'OE HYONG-SOP)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006